

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652 N/A
SUBJECT: BELGIAN MEDIA REACTION

THE MOSCOW TRIALS AND THE BONN SUMMIT EVOKED COMMENT IN
THE BELGIAN MEDIA JULY 12.

LA LIBRE BELGIQUE SAID: "NOT SO LONG AGO, MESSRS. SCHMIDT
AND GISCARD D'ESTAING DEEMED IT APPROPRIATE TO LECTURE THE
AMERICAN CHIEF EXECUTIVE WHEN THE LATTER PROTESTED AGAINST
INFRINGEMENTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE U.S.S.R. BUT TODAY,
THEY ARE JOINING HIM IN HIS ANGER AND THEY ARE FINALLY
PAYING ATTENTION TO SPIRITUAL VALUES IN THEIR RELATIONS
WITH THE SOVIET UNION. IT MATTERED THAT WASHINGTON NO
LONGER BE THE ONLY DON QUIXOTE; GINSBURG AND SHCHARANSKY'S
TRIALS HAVE VERY OBVIOUSLY TIGHTENED WESTERN TIES IN THIS
MATTER. FINALLY IT IS LEGITIMATE TO CONSIDER THAT THE U.S.
HAS SCORED AN IMPORTANT POINT FROM A DIPLOMATIC VIEWPOINT.
MR. VANCE HAS BEEN ABLE TO CONVINCE THE PRESIDENT NOT TO
POSTPONE THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS IN SPITE OF THE INDIGNATION
CAUSED BY THE TRIALS. BY DOING SO, THE U.S. HAS CLEARLY
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SHOWN THAT IT WAS NOT INTENDING TO PUT ALL THE FILES IN THE
SAME DRAWER AND THAT IT FOR ONE, DID NOT ENVISAGE
QUESTIONING THE PRINCIPLES OF DETENTE. IN RETURN, THE
SOVIETS WILL HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR GOOD INTENTIONS.
IT IS IN ANY CASE SIGNIFICANT THAT UNLIKE THE AMERICANS
THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ENVISAGE POSTPONING THE DIALOGUE
ON STRATEGIC ARMAMENTS."

UNDER THE HEADING "WILL THE U.S. AND WEST GERMANY BE FORCED TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN BONN? -- FUKUDA ALSO WANTS MONETARY AGREEMENT OF PRINCIPLE TO BE CONCLUDED IN BONN", FINANCIEEL-EKONOMISCHE TIJD WRITES: "THE JAPANESE PREMIER FUKUDA HAS STAKED HIS HOPES ON THE UPCOMING BONN SUMMIT FOR A SOLUTION TO THE LATEST MONETARY UNREST IN THE EXCHANGE MARKETS. THE JAPANESE HOPE THAT AN AGREEMENT OF PRINCIPLE WILL BE WORKED OUT TO ACHIEVE A GREATER DISCIPLINE IN THE EXCHANGE MARKET. JAPAN ITSELF WANTS TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO A GENERAL REACTIVATION. THE DOMESTIC ECONOMY OF JAPAN IS WELL ON ITS WAY TO ACHIEVING THE ENVISAGED 7 PER CENT GROWTH RATE. IN ADDITION, THE COUNTRY WANTS TO MAKE THE NECESSARY EFFORT TO DISMANTLE ITS TRADE SURPLUS. WITH SUCH PROMISES, JAPAN WILL CERTAINLY NOT SIT IN THE DEFENDANT'S BOX IN BONN, BUT THE INITIATIVE IS NOW UP TO WEST GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES. THE INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ON THE U.S. TO CURB ITS TRADE DEFICIT, AMONG OTHER WAYS THROUGH PRESIDENT CARTER'S ENERGY PLAN, IS INCREASING EVERY DAY. FOLLOWING A TOUR OF EUROPE DEMOCRATIC SENATOR ROBERT BYRD OF WEST VIRGINIA SAID IN WASHINGTON THAT HE HAD PROMISED THE EUROPEAN LEADERS THAT CONGRESS WILL APPROVE CARTER'S ENERGY PLAN. PRESSURE WILL ALSO BE BROUGHT TO BEAR UPON WEST GERMANY TO SEEK A HIGHER GROWTH THAN THE 2 TO 3 PER CENT NOW ENVISAGED...."ITEM

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